

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland, USSR

DATE DISTR. 12 JAN 50

SUBJECT Polish-Russian Naval Agreement
and the Polish Fleet

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- In autumn 1949, negotiations were underway for the USSR to obtain extraterritorial rights over part of the Hel Peninsula (Półwysep Hel). The amount of land demanded by the Soviet navy and the purpose for which it is to be used are unknown to source. In return, Poland is to receive two destroyers and a cruiser.
- On 20 September 1949, an agreement was reached between Poland and Russia, whereby the USSR is to have joint use and joint control over the Polish harbors in return for delivering to Poland nine speedboats and three former German submarines.
- The Russians have shown great interest in the reconstruction of the Polish fleet and have a rather large staff in Gdynia to train the Polish navy. Under Soviet pressure, the Poles have made great efforts to build up their commercial fleet. In 1949 five new ships with a total tonnage of 18,000 tons have been put into service. The program up to August 1950 envisages the construction of three motorships with a total tonnage of 14,000 tons, six tramp steamers (Transocharakter) of 5,000 tons apiece, and eight motorships of 300 tons apiece. In 1949, using ships released by the Russians, Poland had up until September 1949 put into service about 22,000 tons of shipping in reconstructed vessels. As of autumn 1949, the Polish fleet had a total tonnage of about 280,000, exclusive of the 500 ton motor ships for Baltic traffic. So far as is known [redacted] Poland does not have and does not plan to construct ships of over 5,000 tons.

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